



Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

TEXT COMPLEXITY FOR INFORMATIONAL TEXT PI-8113 (New 10-12)

		GENERAL INFO	PRMATION		
Title		Te	ext Type		
Author		Author/Protagonist's Background			
Language Attribute		C	onceptual Unit(s)		
		QUALITATIVE M	IEASURES		
Informational Texts	Exceedingly Complex	Very Complex	Moderately Complex	Slightly Complex	
Purpose	Purpose: Subtle, implied, difficult to determine; intricate, theoretical elements	Purpose: Implied, but fa easy to infer; more theoretic than concrete		Purpose: Explicitly stated; clear, concrete with a narrow focus	
Text Structure	Organization of Main Ideas: Connections between an extensive range of ideas or events are deep, intricate and often implicit or subtle; organization of the text is intricate or specialized for a particular discipline Text Features: If used, are essential in understanding content Use of Graphics: If used, extensive, intricate, essential integrated graphics, tables, charts, etc., necessary to make meaning of text; also may provide information not otherwise conveyed in the text	Organization of Main Ideas: Connections betweer an expanded range ideas, processes or events are deeper and often implicit or subtle; organization may contain multiple pathways at may exhibit traits common to specific discipline Text Features: If used, greatly enhance the reader's understanding of content Use of Graphics: If used essential integrated graphics tables, charts, etc.; may occasionally be essential to understanding the text	some ideas or events are implicit or subtle; organization is evident and generally sequential Text Features: If used, enhance the reader's understanding of content Use of Graphics: If used, graphics mostly supplementary to understanding of the text, such as indexes, glossaries;	Organization of Main Ideas: Connections between ideas, processes or events are explicit and clear; organization of text is clear or chronological or easy to predict Text Features: If used, help the reader navigate and understand content but are not essential Use of Graphics: If used, simple graphics, unnecessary to understanding the text but directly support and assist in interpreting the written text	
Language Features	Conventionality: Dense and complex; contains abstract, ironic, and/or figurative language Vocabulary: Generally unfamiliar, archaic, subject-specific, or overly academic language; may be ambiguous or purposefully misleading Sentence Structure: Mainly complex sentences often containing multiple concepts	Conventionality: Comple contains some abstract, iron and/or figurative language Vocabulary: Somewhat complex language that is sometimes unfamiliar, archa subject-specific, or overly academic Sentence Structure: Macomplex sentences with several subordinate phrases clauses and transition words	explicit and easy to understand with some occasions for more complex meaning Vocabulary: Mostly contemporary, familiar, conversational; rarely unfamiliar or overly academic Sentence Structure: Simple and compound sentences, with some more	Conventionality: Explicit, literal, straightforward, easy to understand Vocabulary: Contemporary, familiar, conversational language Sentence Structure: Mainly simple sentences	

QUALITATIVE MEASURES							
Informational Texts	Exceedingly Complex	Very Complex	Moderately Complex	Slightly Complex			
Knowledge Demands	Subject Matter Knowledge: Extensive, perhaps specialized or even theoretical discipline-specific content knowledge; range of challenging abstract and theoretical concepts Intertextuality: Many references or allusions to other texts or outside ideas, theories, etc.	Subject Matter Knowledge: Moderate levels of discipline- specific content knowledge; some theoretical knowledge may enhance understanding; range of recognizable ideas and challenging abstract concepts Intertextuality: Some references or allusions to other texts or outside ideas, theories, etc.	Subject Matter Knowledge Everyday practical knowledge and some discipline-specific content knowledge; both simple and more complicated, abstract ideas Intertextuality: A few references or allusions to other texts or outside ideas, theories, etc.	Everyday, practical knowledge; simple, concrete ideas			
READER-TASK CONSIDERATIONS							

Consider the following questions to determine the task at hand and if the text is appropriately complex for a specific student:

- Who is your reader? What is the student's age, learning needs, language and reading skills, motivation, engagement with the text and task, prior knowledge, and experience?
- Are there any concerns about the content or themes?
- What do you want the reader to do?
- What is the complexity of the tasks?

QUANTITATIVE MEASURES

Use computer software to determine the quantitative measure of a text. For example, <u>Lexile.com</u> provides lexile measures, <u>renlearn.com</u> provides ATOS measures, and Microsoft Word provides readability statistics through the spelling and grammar feature, which are reported as Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level.

Grade Bands	Lexile	ATOS
□ 6-8	955L-1155L	4.0–8.0
9-10	1080L-1305L	4.6–10.0
11-CCR	1215L-1355L	4.8–12.0

	RECOMMENDED	PLACEMENT				
After evaluating the qualitative and quantitative measures, make a grade band recommendation for the text.						
Grade Band 6-8	Grade Band 9-10	Grade Band 11-CCR	3			

Comments About Recommended Placement